

**2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION**  
***Response to Request for Information***

---

**DEPARTMENT:** Austin Water

**REQUEST NO.:** 5

**REQUESTED BY:** Zimmerman

**DATE REQUESTED:** 5/11/16

**DATE POSTED:** 6/1/16

**REQUEST:** As depicted on slide #29 of the May 4, 2016 “Tax Rates, Utility Rates and Fees” presentation, how does Austin Water’s base fee compare to other utilities?

---

**RESPONSE:** Austin Water’s current residential tiered fixed fee structure (shown below) has been in place since February 2013. Austin Water’s rate design methodology follows the business model changes recommended by the 2012 and 2014 Joint Committee on Austin Water’s Financial Plan (Joint Committee) and subsequently approved by Austin City Council.

All residential customers are charged a minimum meter charge based on meter size, most residential customers are served with a 5/8” meter, and a tiered minimum charge based on billed consumption. As a result, the base fee varies based on monthly billed consumption volume. In addition, fixed fees are waived for customers that are enrolled in the Customer Assistance Program (CAP).

FY 16				
Tier	Gallons	Minimum Meter Charge (5/8")	Tiered Minimum Charge	Total Base Fee
Tier 1	0 - 2,000	\$7.10	\$1.20	\$8.30
Tier 2	2,001 - 6,000	\$7.10	\$3.45	\$10.55
Tier 3	6,001 - 11,000	\$7.10	\$8.75	\$15.85
Tier 4	11,001 - 20,000	\$7.10	\$27.35	\$34.45
Tier 5	20,001- over	\$7.10	\$27.35	\$34.45

## 2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION

### *Response to Request for Information*

The list below shows the base fee for benchmark cities ranked from highest to lowest. The total base fee for Austin Water is shown for each billing tier.

City	Base Fee	Rank	
Kyle, TX	37.63	1	
<b>Austin, TX - Tiers 4 &amp; 5</b>	<b>34.45</b>	<b>2</b>	Sum of the Customer Charge of \$7.10 and the Tiered Fixed Fee of \$27.35
San Diego, CA	22.26	3	
San Marcos, TX	20.01	4	
East Bay MUD/Oakland	19.34	5	
Lubbock, TX	18.25	6	
Cedar Park, TX	17.77	7	
Georgetown, TX	17.25	8	
<b>Austin, TX - Tier 3</b>	<b>15.85</b>	<b>9</b>	Sum of the Customer Charge of \$7.10 and the Tiered Fixed Fee of \$8.75
Pflugerville, TX	15.50	10	
Abilene, TX	15.25	11	
Round Rock, TX	14.69	12	
Seattle, WA	13.75	13	
El Paso, TX	13.53	14	
Amarillo, TX	13.11	15	
Albuquerque, NM	13.08	16	
Corpus Christi, TX	12.14	17	
Portland, OR	11.91	18	
San Antonio, TX	10.90	19	
Buda, TX	10.73	20	
<b>Austin, TX - Tier 2</b>	<b>10.55</b>	<b>21</b>	Sum of the Customer Charge of \$7.10 and the Tiered Fixed Fee of \$3.45
Fort Worth, TX	10.50	22	
Louisville, KY	10.50	22	
Salt Lake City, UT	9.69	24	
Phoenix, AZ	9.05	25	
Arlington, TX	9.00	26	
Denver, CO	8.79	27	
Milwaukee, WI	8.56	28	
<b>Austin, TX - Tier 1</b>	<b>8.30</b>	<b>29</b>	Sum of the Customer Charge of \$7.10 and the Tiered Fixed Fee of \$1.20
Memphis, TN	7.76	30	
Charlotte, NC	5.53	31	
Dallas, TX	5.12	32	
Houston, TX	5.00	33	
<b>Austin CAP</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>34</b>	